

PUTTING
**THE UNITY IN
COMMUNITY**



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights *and*
Justice for All

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

To provide high-quality, free legal services to Marylanders living in poverty through representation and advocacy and to bring meaningful change to the systems that impact them.

VISION

To lead in providing high-quality legal services; to build on mutual respect for clients, staff, and others; to advocate for justice; and to add maximum positive value to all who request legal assistance.

IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to people experiencing poverty. MLA handles cases addressing the most fundamental needs of its clients, including family, housing, income support, healthcare, employment, and consumer law. MLA also represents children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings and other vulnerable populations, including homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, people with developmental and mental health disabilities, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits. MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative, which includes its Lawyer in the Library program, provides advice and assistance with expungement of criminal records and other vital civil legal matters through community-based clinics.

MLA PROVIDES LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR CLIENTS FOR A VARIETY OF ISSUES, SUCH AS:

- Fighting unlawful evictions
- Advocating for improvement of substandard housing
- Acquiring critical health care
- Obtaining disability and other income assistance
- Maintaining custody of children and obtaining, preserving, or increasing child support
- Preventing foreclosures or mitigating their effects
- Recovering unpaid wages
- Remedying fraudulent sales practices and predatory contracts
- Restoring utilities
- Dealing with debts and debt collectors
- Obtaining unemployment benefits
- Obtaining protection against domestic violence
- Securing educational services
- Expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, child custody, and a driver's license

DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year was a year of significant change for all of us and certainly that was true for Maryland Legal Aid. We came through a devastating pandemic that required us to learn to work together safely and in very different ways. Wilhelm Joseph, who led Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) as its executive director for a quarter of a century retired, and I became MLA's new executive director returning to the place where I began my career as a lawyer.

It has been a time of transformation and, as an organization, we too are changing. Our mission, our commitment and dedication to our clients and the urgent need for justice remain. No matter how we evolve to meet the emerging challenges our work requires, we will not waver in our commitment to equal justice, our True North.

With enormous support from the legal community, its funders and partners, Maryland Legal Aid continues to be a critical force for justice as it has for more than one hundred years. As the statewide law firm that serves people living in poverty, MLA's representation and advocacy have the power to help our clients transform their lives.

Maryland Legal Aid helps people overcome the legal barriers they face to meet their most fundamental needs—housing, food, healthcare, employment and economic security.

We do that work because we believe every human being, every client we represent deserves dignity and respect and to be heard. The staff at Maryland Legal Aid, with its army of committed volunteers, demonstrate that respect daily by providing our clients with excellent, high-quality legal services and fierce advocacy.

That is our mission, a part of our core values, and the heart of Maryland Legal Aid's work.

It is work and values I know well. I spent the better part of a decade at MLA as a young lawyer learning from smart, dedicated lawyers, committed staff and courageous clients who persisted in the face of incredible challenges and paid the high costs of poverty and injustice.

Decades later, that hasn't changed. Without an advocate by your side, the likelihood of overcoming these challenges is low and the consequences can be dire. We know that if our justice system doesn't work for everyone, it doesn't work.

We also know that at this moment, the work of justice is urgent and becoming more complex. We are facing the ongoing effects of the pandemic, an epidemic of unrelenting violence, and a critical need to address long-standing racial and economic injustice.

All these issues profoundly impact our clients and communities and inform how we must serve their needs. It challenges us to work more efficiently, more collaboratively, and more creatively. MLA is uniquely situated to fight for justice for its clients and bring real change to the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty to upend racial and economic injustice.

However, we do not do this work alone. In addition to our dedicated staff, we are incredibly fortunate to have broad support from our volunteers—board members, members of the Equal Justice Council and Equal Justice Associates, pro bono attorneys and community members and partners—as well as from our generous donors and funders including foundations, government agencies, law firms, individuals, and, most notably, the Legal Services Corporation and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. We thank all of our partners and supporters for their commitment to Maryland Legal Aid's mission and the clients we serve.

It is in community, united with all of you, that we will meet this important moment. I am honored to lead Maryland Legal Aid at this exciting and consequential time, and I look forward to writing the next chapter of Maryland Legal Aid together.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Schultz".

Vicki Schultz, Esq.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Thank you so much. You have been the angel my mom needed. I can't express how grateful we are for your help. I am overwhelmed with emotion as you have lightened my heavy contentious load and will forever be in our prayers. If we have any questions in the future, we will reach out to you.

Our sincere thanks,

—Mr. R.



Chief Operating Officer
Kristi Schulenberg



Chief Legal & Advocacy Director
Somil Trivedi



Chief Human Resources Officer
Jessica Sysak

WHAT'S NEW

NEW LEADERSHIP

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) has a new leadership team! After the retirement of long-time, former Executive Director Wilhelm Joseph in May, the MLA board conducted a national search and selected Vicki Schultz as MLA's new leader. After joining Maryland Legal Aid, Vicki assembled a new leadership team. Somil Trivedi is now MLA's Chief Legal and Advocacy Director having come from the national American Civil Liberties Union where he advocated for criminal justice reform and voting rights across the country. Kristi Schulenberg joined the team as Chief Operating Officer after leaving the National Alliance to End Homelessness where she provided technical assistance to homeless services providers across the country. MLA also has a new Chief Human Resources Officer, Jessica Sysak who has significant experience in nonprofits and in the private sector.

Together with this new leadership team and MLA's dedicated staff, MLA is well positioned to continue its important work providing high-quality, free legal services to Marylanders living in poverty and embark on a new path forward to strengthen and build a data-informed, equitable and inclusive workplace for all.

"With this new team in partnership with our dedicated staff, I am incredibly excited about the tremendous work ahead to build our organizational culture and capacity so that we can be even more effective in doing incredibly impactful work on behalf of our clients. I am grateful to our staff for their commitment and dedication to expand access to justice for all Marylanders"

—MLA Executive Director, Vicki Schultz

2022 STATS

105,273

Individuals and families served

41,233

Individuals received representation with housing law cases

22,862

Individuals received representation with family law cases

31,812

Cases closed



INVESTMENTS IN STAFF TO HELP MORE CLIENTS

"Putting the Unity in Community" was a significant priority throughout 2022 and MLA addressed the needs of its staff as they began to rebuild and strengthen Maryland Legal Aid, and their sister organization, MCLA. From embracing hybrid work, to creating new categories of legal staff including case-handling paralegals, who are permitted by law to provide direct representation of clients, MLA adapted to client and staff needs, and prioritized client and employee-centered improvements.

NEW OFFICES

In late 2022, MLA expanded the space for its Baltimore County office located in Towson. The extension includes an additional 2,500 square feet and is being used for MLA's Human Resource and Finance units. This new office space is providing additional office space to accommodate the growing legal teams in Baltimore City.

At the end of 2022, the Anne Arundel/Howard office moved to a newly renovated office space location on West Street in downtown Annapolis, which better accommodates staff and clients' needs.

Administrative Assistant Tynesha Smith at her new workstation.



"Thank you. Your efforts made it possible for me to get a good union job, a car, a better place to live, and a better education for my son."

—Anonymous

"Morgan and the entire team took the time to understand what we were going through and truly cared about us. Every time we met, I felt welcome and that their priority was to protect my son Jasper and me. I am lucky. I feel Maryland Legal Aid saved my life. Not everyone in my situation gets out, and now I have somewhere to point other people where to go to get help."

2022 STATS:

435

Individuals and families obtained protection from domestic violence

1,547

Parents obtained custody of children



CAMILLE & JASPER

When Camille came to Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) through a referral from the Prince George's County Family Justice Center, she was upset and traumatized by the domestic violence she experienced at the hands of her son's father, a Navy Serviceman. By the time Camille came to MLA she had already received a Final Protective Order (FPO) from the Prince George's County Court. Because the father routinely violated the FPO, she was forced to seek a Military Protective Order (MPO). Camille attempted multiple times to make the Navy aware of his violations but was consistently ignored, even by the father's commanding officer.

Staff Attorney Morgan McManus from MLA's

Prince George's County Office encouraged Camille to file for contempt, but it was difficult to serve the father as he was stationed on an aircraft carrier in Washington State. With the help of law enforcement officers from Prince George's County Family Justice Center, the father was served with the Show Cause Order upon his return to Maryland. A week later, he was found in contempt.

On the advice of Supervising Attorney Terri Cooke, Attorney McManus contacted members of Congress to pressure the Navy to respond to the MPO request. She connected with then Congressman Anthony Brown on the Armed Services Committee, and

they began calling the Pentagon until they were finally connected with a Judge Advocate General on the father's ship.

Camille was finally granted her MPO, explicitly stating that it was granted by request of petitioner's counsel. At trial, Camille was awarded sole physical and joint legal custody with tie-breaking authority for their son.

Camille's referral to MLA has helped Camille change her life and is an example of the importance of our partnership with community organizations such as the Prince George's County Family Justice Center.

MRS. A: A LONG TERM PARTNER IN JUSTICE

Tina sought out Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) twice in the span of 11 years for help with two different cases. After being served divorce papers on Valentine's Day in 2012, Tina was struggling to make ends meet for her and her daughter. She worked as a hair stylist and could not afford to pay for a private attorney in a contested divorce case.

During the divorce, Tina's husband fell into a coma after a life-threatening accident that further complicated the custody battle between them. She found herself under the incredible financial stress of solely providing for her young daughter, as well as being embroiled in conflicts with her husband's family over who would be responsible for his care while he was in an unresponsive state. Chief Attorney Arlene Callender, from MLA's Cecil/ Harford Office, represented Tina during the first divorce and after years of advocating tirelessly, Tina received full custody of her daughter.

Almost a decade later, Tina faced another difficult life changing event when her second husband abandoned her and suddenly and she had to file for divorce a second time. However this time, Tina was in a different position financially. She had achieved professional success owning and operating a hair salon, but then lost her business due to the pandemic. Additionally, her husband

stole her daughter's service dog causing great emotional turmoil for her and her daughter.

Remembering how MLA had advocated for her during the first divorce, Tina reached out to MLA again. Chief Attorney Callender represented Tina for a second time in a highly contested divorce that now involved a marital home. After some litigation, a favorable settlement was reached. Tina was able to

recover compensation for the loss of her daughter's much-needed service dog, as well as a monetary award for her contributions to the marriage. MLA's representation and advocacy allowed Tina to achieve peace of mind. She is now back on her feet again and moving toward emotional and financial stability.



"My husband wanted full custody...My daughter was two, and I didn't really have money for a lawyer.... Thank you so much Arlene. I owe a lot to her. A whole decade together, that's a long time for a lawyer. She knows everything."

2022 STATS:

8,159

Abused and neglected children
received representation

BABY R. GOES HOME

Just days old and helpless, Baby R. experienced withdrawal symptoms after birth. Baby R.'s birth mother tested positive for prescribed methadone at the time she was born and such babies can experience significant withdrawal symptoms in the first days of life which can be very harmful to them. In 2020, Baby R. was referred to Baltimore County Department of Social Services and Staff Attorney Kristin Lewis Noon began representing the child in his Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) case in 2021. At

a Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM), Attorney Lewis Noon represented Baby R. to discuss a long-term living arrangement for him. The family friends (also known as fictive kin), the client's paternal grandmother, and the biological parents all participated in the meeting. During the FTDM, it was reported that Mom and Dad were homeless and residing in a tent in Essex, MD, with no plans to improve their living situation. Mom had three additional children, two of which were Dad's biological children, but they were in

the physical custody of other relatives. Mom and Dad reported during the meeting that they did not have the ability to care for Baby R. and wanted him placed with family friends.

Baby R. was placed with friends of the family with limited guardianship to the Department of Social Services in 2020. After two years and ongoing advocacy by MLA's attorney, on November 19th, 2022, Baby R. was legally adopted and is thriving in his new home with his loving parents.



2022 STATS:

41,233

Individuals received representation with housing law cases



"People need to know that they are not trapped and stuck in their situation. Maryland Legal Aid can help! MLA made an impact on my life. I know I can rely on Jamie and MLA to continue to help and guide me."

LANDLORD PAYS \$75,000

In Spring 2022, Maryland Legal Aid's (MLA) Lower Eastern Shore Office received a phone call from Ms. Y. saying that she and all of the other tenants in their apartment complex received notices to vacate their homes. Soon after, MLA was contacted by many additional tenants from the same property for the same issue. Upon investigation, MLA learned that the property had been a privately owned apartment building, but was purchased by a new owner who was fully renovating the premises using funds from the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC). The investigation further revealed that, in violation of the agreement signed with the State and other program requirements, the new landlord had wrongfully required the old

owner to evict all of the tenants residing in the building.

Ms. Y. moved into her apartment in 2019. In September, 2020, she found out that the property was being sold to a new owner. Shortly after signing a new lease in May, 2021, Ms. Y. received a letter stating that she had an unsatisfactory credit report and was given 60 days' notice to move out. Ms. Y. was left wondering why this wasn't brought up before she signed the lease and needed a place to stay while she recovered from an upcoming surgery.

Supervising Attorney for Housing Law from MLA's Lower Eastern Shore, Jamie Miliman, investigated and learned that the new owner was attempting to evict Ms. Y. from the property

illegally. Ms. Miliman and Gregory Countess, the Director of Advocacy for Housing and Community Development, reached out to state officials in charge of the LIHTC program, who conducted their own investigation based on the information that Ms. Miliman and Mr. Countess brought to their attention. Ms. Y. provided all of the necessary documents to the landlord, but each time, the landlord asked for additional documents. No matter how many times Ms. Y. complied with their requests, the landlord insisted that it wasn't enough. Ultimately, the landlord filed a breach of lease case against Ms. Y., claiming that she did not comply with the qualification process for the LIHTC program. MLA filed a counterclaim against the landlord for violations

of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (CPA).

Throughout, Ms. Y. went through many surgeries and treatments for breast cancer. She had to use a wound vac machine at all times, making the the numerous trips to the leasing office, which was far away, very challenging for her.

In September 2022, MLA lawyers represented Ms. Y. in a jury trial. The court granted judgement in favor of Ms. Y. on the breach of lease claim as a matter of law without even reaching the jury. The counterclaim that Ms. Y. filed did go to the jury. The jury found that the landlord violated the Maryland CPA, that Ms. Y. suffered damages as a result of the landlord's conduct and, as a result, the jury awarded Ms. Y. \$75,000 in damages.



“Thank you so much. You have been a great help and a major help to my sanity.”

—Ryan White Client

2022 STATS: 56 clients were assisted | **82** cases were opened

RYAN WHITE PROJECT

Since 2012, Maryland Legal Aid’s (MLA) Ryan White Project has been providing free legal services crucial to Maryland residents who are HIV positive or who have AIDS, and live in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, or Queen Anne’s Counties.

Legal assistance provided by Maryland Legal Aid is designed to address the legal needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, and to enable them to focus on one of their primary concerns, free of discrimination— fighting the effects of HIV/AIDS and staying well. Access to legal services, in combination with medical care and case management assistance, is crucial to the well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS and MLA is committed to this life-changing work.

“The Ryan White Project is important because it allows a person overcoming the unique treatment of HIV to have wraparound services in navigating the equally essential aspects of life, particularly access to entitlement benefits and financial stability, housing, and ways to meaningfully contribute back, that support a person’s basic foundation to being able to thrive. Maryland Legal Aid is gratefully a part of that support when a person experiences a barrier.”

—Administrative Law Unit Chief Attorney
Christina Moore

2022 STATS: 2,650 Individuals avoided eviction or foreclosure

EXPANDING RIGHTS WITH GUARANTEED ACCESS TO COUNSEL IN EVICTIONS (ACE)

As part of 2021 and 2022 state legislation, Maryland’s low-income tenants are guaranteed legal representation in eviction proceedings under the state’s Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) program. Phase I of this program began in fall 2022. Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is committed to fully expanding the right to counsel to all Marylanders facing eviction and is proud to participate in the ground-breaking ACE Program. Administered by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, ACE currently supports MLA’s offices in the Upper Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Talbot, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, and Kent Counties), Prince George’s, Montgomery, Anne Arundel/Howard, Frederick, and Baltimore Counties, as well as Baltimore City, as renters against evictions and subsidy terminations are defended.

“Maryland Legal Aid represented over 400 renters in eviction proceedings during the last three months of 2022, and we are really just beginning the long-term work of making Access to Counsel in Evictions a meaningful deterrent to housing instability and displacement,”

—Assistant Advocacy Director for the ACE Program
Zafar Shah

Through ACE, MLA is working alongside numerous other legal services organizations including Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, Pro Bono Resource Center, Public Justice Center and Homeless Persons Representation Project, Community Legal Services, and Mid Shore Pro Bono. These partnerships are essential for spreading the word to eligible Marylanders that they now have a new right to free legal representation in eviction cases.



MLA and MCLA staff at the 2022 All-Staff & Board Conference

NEW LAWYER TRAINING HIGHLIGHT

In 2022, Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) hosted its in-depth, in-person New Lawyer Training at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville. New lawyers from legal services organizations throughout Maryland focused on building their litigation skills with seminars, hands-on exercises, and constructive feedback provided by experienced lawyers throughout. On the last day of training, attendees participated in a full mock trial experience, where they received critiques and feedback from their guest judges.

"We were given multiple opportunities to hear feedback, adapt, hear feedback, adapt again. It taught me how to absorb constructive criticism and execute that constructive criticism."

—Housing Justice Program Fellow DiNesha Rucker

ALL STAFF & BOARD CONFERENCE

On November 15th, MLA came together for its in-person 2022 All Staff & Board Conference. This year's conference theme was "Putting the Unity in Community" with plenty of opportunities for networking and professional development. The morning's plenary session focused on "Understanding and Interrupting Bias

and Micro Aggression." Other sessions included: Empathetic Leadership, Retirement Workshops, Cyber Security and Phishing, Managing Trauma, Stress Management, Estate Planning, Legal Ethics and Yoga. Paralegal Jana Meyer from MLA's Baltimore City Office received the 2022 Charlie Award and Staff Attorney Alice Mutter from MLA's Montgomery County Office received the 2022 Diane Kinslow Award.

MCLA UPDATE

Through a contract with the Maryland Judiciary, the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of MLA, operates District Court Help Centers in Baltimore City, Cambridge, Catonsville, Glen Burnie, Hagerstown, La Plata, Rockville, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and the Maryland Courts Help Centers in Frederick and Annapolis (call centers). In December, MCLA's District Court Help Center in La Plata held a grand opening celebration during which MLA's Executive Director Vicki Schultz and MCLA's Deputy Director for Walk-In Services Alyssa Patzold gave remarks followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony.

MCLA LEADERSHIP

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Tommy Fisher

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
REMOTE SERVICES

Lindsay Bramble

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
WALK-IN SERVICES

Alyssa Patzold

2022 STATS:

145,976

Visitors were assisted by the Maryland Courts Help and District Court Help Centers in 2022

418

Pro Bono Hours

933

Litigants Assisted

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

COATS AND CLINICS

In December, in partnership with THREAD, MLA participated in a Coats & Clinics event in Baltimore City. Thanks to the generosity of Franciscan Center and an anonymous donor, 300 new coats and 500 pairs of socks were distributed to children and adults in need. At each event, financially eligible adults also received free criminal record expungements.



ABOVE: Paralegal Jumel Howard distributing socks. TOP RIGHT: 2022 Coats and Clinics Team. RIGHT: Director of Grants, Contracts and Compliance Jennifer Schauffler distributing coats



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



2022 STATS:

3,378

Individuals served

316

Sites visited

66

Unique sites for outreach events

878

Individuals serviced through
Lawyer in the Library

221

Individuals serviced through
Lawyer in the Schools

235

Individuals serviced through Lawyer
on the Bus/Lawyer on the Road

4,794

Benefitted from criminal record
expungements

COMMUNITY LAWYERING INITIATIVE

Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative places highly skilled lawyers directly in under-served neighborhoods to provide free, life-changing legal assistance. As awareness of the program increased and the need for civil legal services and criminal record expungements became more and more apparent, Maryland Legal Aid answered the demand for services by designating staff and recruiting pro bono attorneys and law students to help serve clients through the Initiative.

Community advocacy is a strategic approach to influencing outcomes and driving change on behalf of your community. The Community Lawyering Initiative includes a number of weekly and monthly expungement clinics coordinated and hosted in partnership with community organizations from around the State!



TOP: 2022 B'MORE Healthy Expo Expungement Clinic. ABOVE: Paralegals Thomas Burnett and Sequoia Stokes and Deputy Legal & Advocacy Director Amy Petkovsek at legal clinics.

"The impact of these clinic events goes far beyond the number of petitions prepared—they have the potential to change the trajectory of individuals' lives by opening doors to new opportunities."

—Director for Pro Bono
Angus Derbyshire

PRO BONO PROGRAM

MLA's Pro Bono Program provides attorneys with volunteer opportunities to learn new areas of law through participation in legal clinics, trainings, MLA's task forces and mentorship opportunities. In 2022, 196 pro bono attorneys provided legal assistance to clients.



Volunteer Attorney Donna Hill Staton at the 2022 B'MORE Healthy Expo Engagement Clinic.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



MARYLAND LEGAL AID

Paul Ackerman
Richard L. Adams, III
Anonymous Pro Bono Advocate
Eunice Ahaghotu
Alexa Ain
Sarah Altschuller
Deborah Arnold
Martha Arthos
Anson Asaka
Yollette Atkinson
Keshia Denise Baird
Tony Balsamo
Hasson Barnes
Grant Barnhard
Daniel Barry
John Bathon
Rachelle Plotkin Bishop
Mary Blythe
Brent Bolea
Michelle Bourque
James Bragdon
Alexander Bratton
Ava Brown
Jacqueline Brown
Linda Bush
Todd Cagwin
William Cameron
Amy Campbell
Pamela Campbell
Stanley Raymond Carignan
Catherine Cook
Deborah S. Cook
Mary Rose Cook
Delores Cooke
Max Cooke
Stephen Craig
Kimberley Curry
Pamela Daniels
Sudipta Das
Paul Day
Kathleen DeNoble
Rina Desai
Joanna Diamond
Kathy Diener
Michael Dowling
Ericka Downie
Anneke Dunbar-Gronke
Essita Duncan
Jordan Dunham
Lynne Durbin
Nicole Durkin
Alessandra Emini
Martina Evans
Melissa Feldhan
Larry J. Feldman
Joanne M. Finegan
Abbie Flanagan
Jason Foltin
Alisa Fornwald
Rebecca Freedman
Alexander Geraldo
Katie L. Ghiardi
Joseph Githuku
Clifford B. Glover
Susan Goebel-Nolan
Janie Gonzalez

Jessica M. Gorsky
Leslie Guthrie
Wendy Hadfield
Kay Harding
Megan E. Harmon
Marilyn Jill Harris
Daniel Hatcher
Margaret Henn
Brandyn Hicks
Lorenzo Holloway
Genevieve Hornik
Michael Howson
Abby Hurson
Daniel Hurson
Chanaye Jackson
Alisha L. Jacobsen
Marissa Joelson
Duncan Keir
Brendan Kelly
Elizabeth Kennedy
Nashona Kess
Graham Kidner
Christian Kim
Ericka King
Gabrielle Kohlmeier
Matthew Koning
Nicole Kozlowski
Kanisha R. Laffitte
Lauren Lake
Patricia Lane
Melissa Lauderdale
Rebecca Leaf
Michael Levin
Adam Levine
Teresa Little
Cristine Evans LoVetro
Laura Mayberry
Nicholas McDaniels
Patricia McLean
Ashley C. Moore
Mairi Morrison
Ogechi Muotoh
Jennifer Nance
Abby Nathans
John Nicholson
Ravnna Nkwawuo
James Nolan
Catherine Norton
Jennifer Nwachukwu
Lee Ogburn
Chelsea Ortega
Matt Paavola
Bridget Celena Pacheco
Aaron Parker
Jon Pearson
Matthew F. Penater
Mary Penn
Joel L. Perrell Jr.
Joshua Perry
Kenneth Perry
Kenneth Pollack
Jasmine Pope
Christopher Porter
Pamela Powell
Patrick Preller
Lorraine Prete

Jo Price
Emily Puhl
Joseph Quinn
Jessica Raba
Christopher Rahl
David Ralph
Kasey Reisman
Morgan Rhoden
James Rhodes
Ellen Rice
Meaghan Richmond
Janelle Riddick
Alicia N. Ritchie
Sharon Ritter Beall
Stephanie Robinson
William L. Rodowsky
John N. Rose
Daniel Rubin
Adam R. Rutherford
Krystle Sanders
Astrid Schmidt-King
Vicki Schultz
Andy Scott
Nicole Seymour
Nicole C. Shaw
Stephen Sherman
Beverly Sikora
Darci Smith
Jennifer S. Smith
Donna Staton
Megan Sunderland
Timothy F. Swanson
Elizabeth Symands
Ajana Taylor
Erin Ter-nedden
Sergios Theologides
Beatrice C. Thomas
Sakinah Tillman
John Tolbert
Angela Townsend-Williams
Laura Venezia
Ebony Vincent
Nicholas Vogt
Kimberly Wagner
Kelly Weiner
Michael Wentworth
Nicole Wenzlaff
Ashley Wetzel
Kate Whitesell
Linda Wiles
Andrew Will
Karen Willford
Mialeeka Williams
Cameron Williams
Karen Moody Williford
Alicia Wilson
Amy Wilson
Anthony C. Wisniewski
Wendy Wolock
Theresa Wong
Patrick Woodhouse
Ruhe Yilma
Jennifer Young
Jeremy Zacker
Jacob Ziff

EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

MLA's Equal Justice Council (EJC) actively promotes equal access to justice for Maryland's most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable residents by increasing and diversifying MLA's resources, financial and otherwise, and serving as ambassadors on behalf of MLA. The EJC is composed of leading attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community.

EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Co-Chairpersons:

Martin S. Himeles, Jr., Esq.

Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.

EQUAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATES

MLA's Equal Justice Associates (EJA) is a group of attorneys under the age of 40 that support MLA's mission of providing equal access to civil legal assistance for low-income Marylanders through pro bono service and fundraising. In addition to organizing pro bono service opportunities, fundraising activities, and social networking events, EJA members also receive high quality training and mentoring from MLA attorneys in a variety of practice areas.

EJA LEADERSHIP

Co-Chair: Darryl L. Tarver, Esq.

Co-Chair: Ernie Dominguez, Esq.

Secretary: Aaron DeGraffenreidt, Esq.

Treasurer: Alicia Shelton, Esq.

Member-At-Large: Megan E. Davis, Esq.

Pro Bono Chair: Joanna Diamond, Esq.

EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL AWARDS BREAKFAST

On Thursday, October 13, Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council (EJC) hosted its 23rd Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards. This event honors and recognizes the individuals, law firms and community partners that are helping to ensure that all Marylanders have a fair shot at justice. The Honorable Pamela J. White was this year's emcee and The Honorable Matthew J. Fader, Chief Justice of the Maryland Supreme Court, was this year's special guest speaker.

Honorees included Constellation Energy (Community Partner for Justice Award); Thomas J.S. Waxter III, Esq. of Goodell Devries (Most Valuable Partner Award); and Arnetta Shelton and Johns Hopkins University and Health System (Pro Bono Partner of the Year Award). In addition, Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh received the Executive Director's Award, and Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq., former Executive Director of Maryland Legal Aid, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

MANAGING PARTNERS' BREAKFAST

On Tuesday, December 6, Maryland Legal Aid and the Equal Justice Council held the Managing Partners' Meeting at Ballard & Spahr's new office in Baltimore. Several leaders of the private bar in Maryland gathered to meet MLA's new executive leadership team Vicki Schultz, Kristi Schulenberg, and Somil Trivedi, who spoke about MLA's vision for expanding access to justice for underserved Marylanders and for partnering with the private bar to pursue that goal. Members also heard about the transformative impact MLA has had on clients. Special thanks to Ballard & Spahr and members of EJC for hosting a wonderful meeting.



TOP: L-R: Jane Santoni, Arnetta Shelton, and Judge Pamela J. White. ABOVE: Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader and attendee at the 2022 Equal Justice Awards Breakfast.

Hold Ones
Regards
God
Sometimes
Closer
Work
Family
Keep
Through
Finally Even
Everything
Safe
Bottom
Hard
Bless
Forever
Personally
Complete
Best
Back
Christmas
Attorney
Discouraged
Representing
Words
Exceedingly
Last
Part
Highly
Handled
Custody
Debt
Case
Proud
Good
Decision
Support
Explained
Court
Craziness
Accepting
Vigilant
Want
Joint
Entire
Always
Thank
Up
Results
Many
Survive
Diligence
Pleased
Bit
Being
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Dealing
Compensate
Control
Rights
Due
Effort
out
Steadfastness
Help

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My family and I are exceedingly thankful for your assistance and support. Your steadfastness in representing me helped me survive the court case. I am indebted to you for life. My family will have a merrier Christmas this year! May you and your loved ones be blessed as always.

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I am so very grateful for all of your due diligence and am very proud of you. This has been holding me back for so many years and finally, this is complete. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am forever in your debt.

All my regards and God bless you,
—Mr. W.

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I just want to thank you all for representing and helping me not only today but through the entire case. I know I would not have gotten the results I got today without you all. I was very pleased with how everything was handled and explained to me so that I could make the best decision for Camden. I completely understand how and why we came to the agreement that we did. I know that this is a process and there are things that are out of our control. Ultimately, I get a little bit more time with Camden and am that much closer to joint custody. I will continue to do my part and be vigilant.

THANK YOU!!

—Mr. W.

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A few words from the COMMUNITY:

I have no words to thank you enough for all the time and effort you put into this case for the last couple years. Thank you for helping me deal with all the craziness, you had the patience even when I got discouraged sometimes. I couldn't have put an end to this and hold my rights without you. Only God will compensate you for what you did for me.

Thank you so much for accepting my case to begin with.

—Ms. F.

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I want to personally say thank you so much, you are a great attorney, and I would highly recommend you. You rock!

—Ms. H.

Thank you for being there through the hard time. Keep up the good work and stay safe.

—Ms. D.

Thank you so much for your support and hard work to help Ms. F. move. We appreciate you so much! You are a pleasure to work with and so adept at making things happen!

—Ms. F. and Ms. H.

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In memory and honor of Maryland Legal Aid staff and board members lost in 2022. Their dedication, drive, passion and commitment to justice will never be forgotten.

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Miriam Sincell
Alyssa Sines
Barbara Smith
Kristin Smith
Shelly Smith
Tina Smith
Brett Smoot
Harry F. Snoots
Arvin Spence
Mark Stave
William Steinwedel
Jamie Stevens
Michael Stevens
Morgan Stevenson
Alexis Stokes
Walker Stump-Coale
Tevye Sugarman
Brendan Sullivan

Timothy Swanson
Jessica Sysak
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Zachary S. Tiblin
Andre Tremper
Somil Trivedi
Yulia Tsifrina
Patricia Tuon
Timothy A. Turner
Marianne Vanderviele
Tatiana Vasconcelos Costa
Evelyn Vernet
Frank Vitale
Frank Voso
Patricia Waldman
Kamila Walker
Beth R. Wanger
Corinne Warren
Shannon M. Weaver
Anthony Weekes
Jennifer Weil
Haimanot B. Wentworth
Douglas Westfall
Paul Williams
Shye Williams
Jennifer Wilson
Latina Wilson
Lolita G. Wilson
Sandra Wooten
Darryl Wright
LeJuene Wynn
Terrence Young
Daniel Zanchettin
Christopher Ziemski

VOLUNTEERS

Castell Abner Jr.
Noah Appel
Cynthia Fenimore
Autumn Gilliam
Marilyn Harris
Teresa Iannocconi
Jaia R. Lloyd
Rob McGarrath
Caleigh Musto
Marilyn Ogburn
Alexander Randle-Johnson
Alex TambaLaw Clerks & Interns

Cassidy Bernashe
Owen Brinker
Christopher E. Daffin
Wisdom Ejnaka
Walter T. Gilson
Megan E. Good
Olivia D. Johnson
Heidi Kurniawan
Juliana Kuryla
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Lauren N. McNerney
Devita D. Mohandeo
Melissa A. Murphy
Kristin K. Robinson
Maria L. Schuler
Savannah R. Smith
Braden M. Stinar
Rayna C. Whye

LAW CLERKS & INTERNS

Cassidy Bernashe
Owen Brinker
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Each list represents calendar year 2022.

2022 CLIENT CASE TYPES



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Resource Development Unit
500 E. Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

GIFTS OF STOCK

Charles Schwab
Account Name:
Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.
DTC# 0164
Account #78352614

WORKPLACE GIVING

United Way: 54
Maryland Charity Campaign: 520591621
Combined Federal Campaign: 15755

PLANNED GIFT/BEQUEST

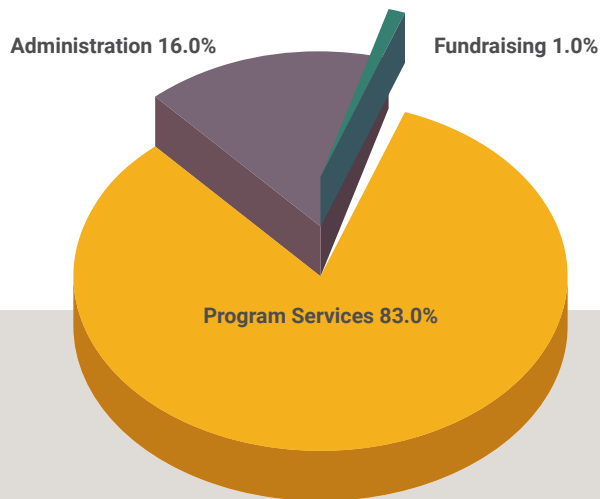
Include a charitable gift to MLA in your will with a call to your lawyer.

For more information, contact
Director of Development, Graham Cowger,
at gcowger@mdlab.org or 410-951-7706.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION

2022



2022

TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT

(Without and With Donor Restrictions)	\$35,507,510
Total Operating Expenses	\$31,319,654
Changes in Net Assets	\$4,187,856
TOTAL NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$34,715,281

SELECTED FUNDING SOURCES

Legal Services Corporation	\$6,455,561
Maryland Legal Services Corporation	\$15,703,049
Government and other contracts	\$12,653,869
Net investment (loss) gain and other income	(\$88,709)
Individual contributions and foundations	783,740

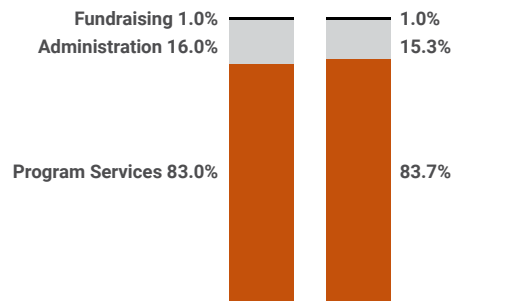
This report contains a summary of 2022 financial information and of selected sources of funding received. Complete audited financial statements are available from Maryland Legal Aid upon request.

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The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income people in every Maryland community. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling our office: (410) 951-7719. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and mailing.

All funds received by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et. seq., its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et. seq., and other applicable law.

2022 vs 2021



SERVED BY COUNTY 2022

	MLA CASES	MLA PERSONS SERVED	MCLA MATTERS HANDLED*
Allegany	930	2,527	689
Anne Arundel	1,263	3,937	24,923
Baltimore City	11,000	26,699	19,623
Baltimore County	3,602	14,263	21,854
Calvert	366	753	1,356
Caroline	107	614	378
Carroll	389	2,044	1,343
Cecil	483	2,092	1,697
Charles	781	2,353	3,830
Dorchester	204	638	691
Frederick	1,115	5,665	7,456
Garrett	413	701	133
Harford	1,378	5,260	2,416
Howard	396	2,319	4,285
Kent	131	337	150
Montgomery	3,369	10,856	17,102
Prince George's	3,096	13,403	24,591
Queen Anne's	87	350	339
St. Mary's	553	1,216	1,608
Somerset	147	659	519
Talbot	97	505	468
Washington	772	3,726	2,467
Wicomico	686	3,007	4,101
Worcester	219	847	994
Out of State	228	502	424
Undetermined	-	-	2,539
TOTAL	31,812	105,273	145,976

* Includes pro se litigants assisted by the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) through the District Court Help Resource Centers in Baltimore City, and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington, and Wicomico counties, the Maryland Courts Help Centers in Annapolis and Frederick, and the Anne Arundel Family Law Self-Help Center.



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.
500 East Lexington Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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MARYLAND LEGAL AID OFFICE LOCATIONS

Allegany/Garrett*

138 Baltimore Street
Suite 204
Cumberland, MD 21502
1 (888) 465-2468

Anne Arundel/Howard

2024 West Street
Suite 204,
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 972-2700
(800) 666-8330

3451 Court House Drive
2nd Floor
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 480-1057

Baltimore City*

500 E. Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Telephone Intake:
1 (888) 465-2468

Baltimore County

215 Washington Avenue
Suite 305
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 427-1800
(877) 878-5920

Cecil/Harford

103 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 836-8202
(800) 444-9529

Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset,
Wicomico, Worcester
201 E. Main Street
Salisbury, MD 21801
(410) 546-5511
(800) 444-4099

Midwestern Maryland*

Carroll, Frederick, Washington
22 S. Market Street
Suite 11
Frederick, MD 21701
1 (888) 465-2468

Montgomery County*

600 Jefferson Plaza
Suite 430
Rockville, MD 20852
1 (888) 465-2468

Prince George's County*

8401 Corporate Drive
Suite 200
Landover, MD 20785
1 (888) 465-2468

Southern Maryland*

Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's
15045 Burnt Store Road
Hughesville, MD 20637
1 (888) 465-2468

Upper Eastern Shore

Caroline, Kent,
Queen Anne's, Talbot
106 Washington Street
Suite 101
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 763-9676
(800) 477-2543

* Centralized Intake is now
serving these jurisdictions.

Statewide Programs & Resources

Community Lawyering Initiative
(443) 451-2805

Farmworker Program
(800) 444-4099

Foreclosure Legal Assistance
Project
(888) 213-3320

Long-Term Care Assistance Project
(866) 635-2948

Maryland Senior Legal Helpline
(866) 635-2948

Veterans' Hotline
(443) 863-4040

TTY Users: Call Maryland
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Editors: Ian Bravo, Jennifer Lavella,
Alec Chase, Graham Cowger

Designer: Bill Geenen

Printing by Pavsner Press, Inc.



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